



AF
JFW

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/854,306
Filing Date	May 11, 2001
First Named Inventor	Eric Yang
Art Unit	3629
Examiner Name	Janice A. Mooneyham
Attorney Docket Number	15448-0502

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Return receipt postcard Check in the amount of \$500.00
Remarks The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or underpayments of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account Number 50-1302 Deposit Account Name: Hickman Palermo Truong & Becker LLP		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

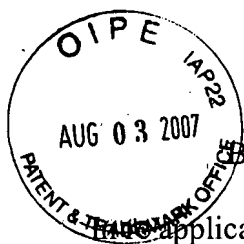
Firm Name	Hickman Palermo Truong & Becker LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Christian A. Nicholes		
Date	August 1, 2007	Reg. No.	50,266

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

Signature			
Typed or printed name	Tracy Reynolds	Date	August 1, 2007

SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Application of:

Confirmation No.: 7816

Eric Yang, et al.

Group Art Unit No.: 3629

Serial No.: 09/854,306

Examiner: Janice A. Mooneyham

Filed: May 11, 2001

For: SOFTWARE LICENSING MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM

MS Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed on June 1, 2007.

The time period for filing this Appeal Brief extends to August 1, 2007.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Cadence Design Systems, Inc. is the real party in interest.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellants are unaware of any related appeals or interferences.

08/03/2007 HVUONG1 00000071 09854306

01 FC:1402

500.00 OP

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-142 have been finally rejected and are the subjects of this appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

None of the claims were amended after the Final Office Action.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present application contains independent Claims 1, 23, 56, 65, 72, 94, 127, and 136. Claims 1, 23, 56, and 65 are summarized below. Claims 72, 94, 127, and 136 recite computer-readable media that carry instructions for performing the methods recited in Claims 1, 23, 56, and 65, respectively. Therefore, to avoid repetitiveness, Claims 72, 94, 127, and 136 are not summarized below.

The claims summarized below are annotated to cross-reference features of the claims to specific examples of those features disclosed in the specification. However, the annotations are not intended to limit the scope of the recited features to those specific examples to which the annotations refer.

Claim 1 recites (with added reference annotations in parenthesis) a computer-implemented method for managing a contract (page 12, lines 12-13). The method comprises:

receiving (FIG. 7, step 704; page 28, lines 17-22), over a network (FIG. 1, network 104; page 10, line 22-page 11, line 2), from a client computer (FIG. 1, client 106; page 9, lines 21-22) that runs a browser program (FIG. 1, browser 150; page 9, lines 21-22), a first inquiry (page 13, lines 1-9) regarding licensing of a first set of software (FIG. 1, licensed software 154; page 10, lines 10-11) under a particular contract (page 12, lines 6-9);

in response to receiving said first inquiry, accessing (FIG. 7, step 712; page 29, lines 1-4), at a management system (FIG. 1, management system 102, including LDM 140; page 11, lines 7-13) that is coupled to said client computer via said network and is embodied in a machine (page 11, lines 10-11), information pertaining to said particular contract (page 13, lines 10-15), said information comprising a quota parameter (page 14, lines 12-15), which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said particular contract (page 3, lines 3-9);

determining (FIG. 7, step 728; page 30, lines 1-5), at said management system, a first licensing amount attributable to licensing said first set of software (page 14, lines 5-8);

updating (FIG. 7, step 740; page 35, lines 7-8) said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said first licensing amount (page 18, lines 8-11);

sending (page 19, lines 2-3 and 6-8) license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host (FIG. 1, licensing host 108, including license management software 152; page 10, lines 4-9) that (a) is coupled to said management system via said network, (b) communicates (page 10, lines 11-16; page 19, lines 15-17) with said first set of software over said network, and (c) enforces (page 10, lines 16-19; page 19, lines 19-23) said license parameters relative to said first set of software; and

allowing (FIG. 7, step 744; page 35, lines 14-17) said first set of software to be used under said particular contract.

Claim 23 recites (with added reference annotations in parenthesis) a computer-implemented method for managing a contract (page 12, lines 12-13). The method comprises:

receiving (FIG. 7, step 704; page 28, lines 17-22), over a network (FIG. 1, network 104; page 10, line 22-page 11, line 2), from a client computer (FIG. 1, client 106; page 9, lines 21-22) that runs a browser program (FIG. 1, browser 150; page 9, lines 21-22), at a management system

(FIG. 1, management system 102, including LDM 140; page 11, lines 7-13) that is coupled to said client computer via said network and is embodied in a machine (page 11, lines 10-11), a first inquiry (page 13, lines 1-9) regarding licensing of a first set of software (FIG. 1, licensed software 154; page 10, lines 10-11) under a particular contract (page 12, lines 6-9);

in response to receiving said first inquiry at said management system, accessing (FIG. 7, step 712; page 29, lines 1-4), at said management system, information pertaining to said particular contract (page 13, lines 10-15), said information comprising a quota parameter (page 14, lines 12-15), which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said particular contract (page 3, lines 3-9), and one or more contract terms (page 4, lines 5-8; page 13, lines 14-17; page 14, lines 15-19) associated with said particular contract;

determining (FIG. 7, step 728; page 30, lines 1-5), at said management system, a first licensing amount attributable to licensing said first set of software, said first licensing amount determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms (page 14, lines 5-8);

updating (FIG. 7, step 740; page 35, lines 7-8) said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said first licensing amount (page 18, lines 8-11);

sending (page 19, lines 2-3 and 6-8) license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host (FIG. 1, licensing host 108, including license management software 152; page 10, lines 4-9) that (a) is coupled to said management system via said network, (b) communicates (page 10, lines 11-16; page 19, lines 15-17) with said first set of software over said network, and (c) enforces (page 10, lines 16-19; page 19, lines 19-23) said license parameters relative to said first set of software; and

allowing (FIG. 7, step 744; page 35, lines 14-17) said first set of software to be used under said particular contract.

Claim 56 recites (with added reference annotations in parenthesis) a computer-implemented method for managing a contract (page 12, lines 12-13). The method comprises:

receiving (FIG. 7, step 704; page 28, lines 17-22), over a network (FIG. 1, network 104; page 10, line 22-page 11, line 2), from a client computer (FIG. 1, client 106; page 9, lines 21-22) that runs a browser program (FIG. 1, browser 150; page 9, lines 21-22), at a management system (FIG. 1, management system 102, including LDM 140; page 11, lines 7-13) that is embodied in a machine (page 11, lines 10-11) that is coupled to said client computer via said network, an inquiry (page 13, lines 1-9) regarding licensing of a set of software (FIG. 1, licensed software 154; page 10, lines 10-11) under a particular contract (page 12, lines 6-9);

in response to receiving said inquiry at said management system, accessing (FIG. 7, step 712; page 29, lines 1-4), at said management system, a first set of information pertaining to said particular contract (page 13, lines 10-15), said first set of information comprising a quota parameter (page 14, lines 12-15), which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said particular contract (page 3, lines 3-9), and one or more contract terms (page 4, lines 5-8; page 13, lines 14-17; page 14, lines 15-19) associated with said particular contract;

accessing, at said management system, one or more other sets of information pertaining to one or more other contracts related to said particular contract (FIG. 8; page 30, line 16-page 33, line 13; page 16, line 9-page 17, line 21), each of said other sets of information comprising one or more contract terms associated with one of said other contracts;

processing said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information at said management system to derive one or more applicable contract terms that apply to said inquiry (FIG. 8; page 33, lines 14-page 34, line 8);

determining (FIG. 8, step 848), at said management system, a licensing amount attributable to licensing said set of software, said licensing amount determined, at least partially, by applying said one or more applicable contract terms (page 34, lines 8-16);

updating (FIG. 7, step 740; page 35, lines 7-8) said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said licensing amount (page 18, lines 8-11);

sending (page 19, lines 2-3 and 6-8) license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host (FIG. 1, licensing host 108, including license management software 152; page 10, lines 4-9) that (a) is embodied in a machine that is connected, via said network, to a machine in which said management system is embodied (FIG. 1), (b) communicates (page 10, lines 11-16; page 19, lines 15-17) with said set of software over said network, and (c) enforces (page 10, lines 16-19; page 19, lines 19-23) said license parameters relative to said set of software; and

allowing (FIG. 7, step 744; page 35, lines 14-17) said first set of software to be used under said particular contract.

Claim 65 recites (with added reference annotations in parenthesis) a computer-implemented method for managing a contract (page 12, lines 12-13). The method comprises:

receiving (FIG. 9, step 904), over a network (FIG. 1, network 104; page 10, line 22-page 11, line 2), from a client computer (FIG. 1, client 106; page 9, lines 21-22) that runs a browser program (FIG. 1, browser 150; page 9, lines 21-22), at a management system (FIG. 1, management system 102, including LDM 140; page 11, lines 7-13) that is embodied in a machine (page 11, lines 10-11) that is coupled to said client computer via said network, a request to terminate a license on a set of software (page 37, line 22-page 38, line 1);

in response to receiving said inquiry at said management system, accessing (FIG. 7, step 712; page 38, lines 4-10) information pertaining to said license, said information comprising a reference to a contract (page 13, lines 10-15) under which said license was granted, said contract having a quota parameter (page 14, lines 12-15) associated therewith which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said contract (page 3, lines 3-9);

determining (FIG. 9, step 936) a refund amount (page 38, lines 10-20) at said management system;

updating (FIG. 9, step 940) said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said refund amount (page 38, line 21-page 39, line 6);

sending (page 19, lines 2-3 and 6-8) license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host (FIG. 1, licensing host 108, including license management software 152; page 10, lines 4-9) that (a) is embodied in a machine that is connected, via said network, to a machine in which said management system is embodied (FIG. 1), (b) communicates (page 10, lines 11-16; page 19, lines 15-17) with said set of software over said network, and (c) enforces (page 10, lines 16-19; page 19, lines 19-23) said license parameters relative to said set of software; and

disallowing (FIG. 9, step 948; page 39, lines 12-18) further use of said set of software under said contract.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Claims 1-17, 19, 22, 72-88, 90, and 93 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated, allegedly, by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0133793 (“Ginter”).

2. Claims 23-49, 51, 55-64, 94-120, 122, and 126-135 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated, allegedly, by Ginter.

3. Claims 65-71 and 136-142 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable, allegedly, over Ginter.

4. Claims 18, 20-21, 89, and 91-92 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable, allegedly, over Ginter.

5. Claims 50, 52-54, 121, and 123-125 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable, allegedly, over Ginter.

VIII. ARGUMENTS

A. The Features of Claims 1-17, 19, 22, 72-88, 90, and 93 Are Not Disclosed, Taught, or Suggested by Ginter

Claim 1 recites, among other features, that a licensing host “communicates with said first set of software over said network.” This first set of software must be, according to Claim 1, the same set of software that a client’s licensing inquiry regards (Claim 1 says, in part, “receiving . . . a first inquiry **regarding licensing of a first set of software under a particular contract**”). The most recent Office Action alleges that Ginter’s VDE content creator 102 and/or VDE rights distributor 104 are analogous to the “licensing host” of Claim 1. Therefore, if Ginter’s VDE content creator 102 and/or VDE rights distributor 104 does not communicate, over a network, with a set of software that a client’s licensing inquiry regards under a particular contract, then Ginter does not disclose a licensing host that “communicates with **said** first set of software over said network” as recited in Claim 1.

In the Advisory Action mailed on April 24, 2007, the Examiner admits that, in Ginter's approach, "**no system communicates** with the content." The Examiner concedes that "one does not communicate with content." However, Claim 1 **requires** that the licensing host "communicates with said first set of software," where the "set of software" is **required** to be the set of software that the client's licensing inquiry regards. In Ginter, the only thing to which the alleged "inquiry regarding licensing under a particular contract" could possibly pertain is the VDE-protected content in the VDE content container. Yet, the Examiner admits that no system (ergo, no "licensing host") communicates with this VDE-protected content.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner argues that "one does communicate with the content creator or user or with the clearing house." Yet, even if this is so, it does not satisfy the requirements of Claim 1, because none of these entities (the content creator, the user, or the clearing house) is even a **set of software**, let alone a set of software that a client's licensing inquiry regards under a particular contract. Furthermore, no inquiry is ever received from any client regarding the licensing of any of these entities (the content creator, the user, or the clearing house) under any contract.

Because none of Ginter's systems communicates with any set of software that a client's licensing inquiry regards (as admitted by the Examiner in the Advisory Action), Ginter **cannot** disclose, teach, or suggest the method of Claim 1. Ginter does **not** disclose, teach, or suggest a licensing host that "communicates with said first set of software over said network," where "said first set of software" is a set of software that a client's licensing inquiry regards under a particular contract, as recited in Claim 1.

Therefore, Ginter fails to disclose, teach, or suggest that a licensing host communicates, over a network, with a set of software that a client's licensing inquiry regards, as required by

Claim 1. Additionally, Ginter does not even disclose a licensing host as recited in Claim 1.

Additionally, Ginter does not disclose a management system that is embodied in a machine as recited in Claim 1. Even if Ginter's approach has some features that seem similar to some features in recited in Claim 1, Ginter does not disclose the precise steps that are performed by the precise components that are recited in Claim 1.

By virtue of their dependence from Claim 1, Claims 2-17, 19, and 22 include the features of Claim 1 distinguished from Ginter above. Claims 72-88, 90, and 93 recite computer-readable media that carry instructions for causing processors to perform the methods of Claims 1-17, 19, and 22, respectively.

As a result, Claims 1-17, 19, 22, 72-88, 90, and 93 are patentable over Ginter under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The rejection of Claims 1-17, 19, 22, 72-88, 90, and 93 should be reversed.

B. The Features of Claims 23-49, 51, 55-64, 94-120, 122, and 126-135 Are Not Disclosed, Taught, or Suggested by Ginter

Similar to a step recited in Claim 1, Claim 23 recites, "sending license parameters from said management system over said network to **a licensing host that** (a) is coupled to said management system via said network, (b) **communicates with said first set of software over said network**, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said first set of software;" and Claim 56 recites, "sending license parameters from said management system over said network to **a licensing host that** (a) is embodied in a machine that is connected, via said network, to a machine in which said management system is embodied, (b) **communicates with said first set**

of software over said network, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said first set of software.”

As is discussed above in relation to Claim 1, Ginter does not disclose that a licensing host **communicates**, over a network, **with a set of software** whose licensing the recited “inquiry” regards. Therefore, Ginter fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least these aspects of Claims 23 and 56.

By virtue of their dependence from Claim 23, Claims 24-49, 51, and 55 include the features of Claim 23 distinguished from Ginter above. By virtue of their dependence from Claim 56, Claims 57-64 include the features of Claim 56 distinguished from Ginter above.

Claims 94 and 127 recite computer-readable media that carry instructions for causing processors to perform the methods of Claims 23 and 56, respectively. By virtue of their dependence from Claim 94, Claims 95-120, 122, and 126 include the features of Claim 94 distinguished from Ginter above. By virtue of their dependence from Claim 127, Claims 128-135 include the features of Claim 127 distinguished from Ginter above.

As a result, Claims 23-49, 51, 55-64, 94-120, 122, and 126-135 are patentable over Ginter under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The rejection of Claims 23-49, 51, 55-64, 94-120, 122, and 126-135 should be reversed.

C. The Features of Claims 65-71 and 136-142 Are Not Disclosed, Taught, or Suggested by Ginter

Similar to a step recited in Claim 1, Claim 65 recites, “sending license parameters from said management system over said network to **a licensing host that** (a) is embodied in a machine

that is connected, via said network, to a machine in which said management system is embodied, (b) **communicates with said set of software** over said network, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said set of software.”

As is discussed above in relation to Claim 1, Ginter does not disclose that a licensing host **communicates**, over a network, **with a set of software** whose licensing the recited “request” regards. Therefore, Ginter fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least this aspect of Claim 65. The Examiner does not cite any evidence or provide any reasoning as to why this particular feature would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Additionally, Ginter does not disclose, teach, or suggest a licensing host that is embodied in a machine as recited in Claim 65. Additionally, Ginter does not disclose, teach, or suggest a management system that is embodied in a machine as recited in Claim 65. Additionally, Ginter does not disclose, teach, or suggest that a machine in which a licensing host is embodied is connected, via said network, to a machine in which a management system is embodied as recited in Claim 65.

Claim 136 recites a computer-readable medium that carries instructions for causing processors to perform the method of Claim 65. By virtue of their dependence from Claim 65, Claims 66-71 include the features of Claim 65 distinguished from Ginter above. By virtue of their dependence from Claim 136, Claims 137-142 include the features of Claim 136 distinguished from Ginter above.

As a result, Claims 65-71 and 136-142 are patentable over Ginter under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The rejection of Claims 65-71 and 136-142 should be reversed.

D. The Features of Claims 18, 20-21, 89, and 91-92 Are Not Disclosed, Taught, or Suggested by Ginter

By virtue of their dependence from Claim 1, Claims 18 and 20-21 inherit the features of Claim 1. As is discussed above in relation to Claim 1, Ginter does not disclose that a licensing host **communicates**, over a network, **with a set of software** whose licensing the recited “request” regards.

Therefore, Ginter fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least this aspect of Claims 18 and 20-21. The Examiner does not cite any evidence or provide any reasoning as to why this particular feature would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 89 and 91-92 recite computer-readable media that carry instructions for causing processors to perform the methods of Claims 18 and 20-21, respectively.

As a result, Claims 18, 20-21, 89, and 91-92 are patentable over Ginter under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The rejection of Claims 18, 20-21, 89, and 91-92 should be reversed.

E. The Features of Claims 50, 52-54, 121, and 123-125 Are Not Disclosed, Taught, or Suggested by Ginter

By virtue of their dependence from Claim 23, Claims 50 and 52-54 inherit the features of Claim 23. As is discussed above in relation to Claim 23, Ginter does not disclose “sending license parameters from said management system over said network to **a licensing host that** (a) is coupled to said management system via said network, (b) **communicates with said first set of software over said network**, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said first set of software.”

Therefore, Ginter fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least this aspect of Claims 50 and 52-54. The Examiner does not cite any evidence or provide any reasoning as to why this particular feature would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 121 and 123-125 recite computer-readable media that carry instructions for causing processors to perform the methods of Claims 50 and 52-54, respectively.

As a result, Claims 50, 52-54, 121, and 123-125 are patentable over Ginter under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The rejection of Claims 50, 52-54, 121, and 123-125 should be reversed.

IX. CONCLUSION AND PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of Claims 1-142 lack the requisite factual and legal bases. Appellants respectfully request that the Honorable Board **reverse** the rejections of Claims 1-142.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



Christian A. Nicholes
Registration No. 50,266

Date: AUGUST 1, 2007

2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550
San Jose, California 95110-1089
Tel: (408) 414-1224
Fax: (408) 414-1076

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Appeal Brief-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on August 1, 2007

by Tracy Reynolds
Tracy Reynolds

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A computer-implemented method for managing a contract, comprising:
receiving, over a network, from a client computer that runs a browser program, a first inquiry regarding licensing of a first set of software under a particular contract;
in response to receiving said first inquiry, accessing, at a management system that is coupled to said client computer via said network and is embodied in a machine, information pertaining to said particular contract, said information comprising a quota parameter, which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said particular contract;
determining, at said management system, a first licensing amount attributable to licensing said first set of software;
updating said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said first licensing amount;
sending license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host that (a) is coupled to said management system via said network, (b) communicates with said first set of software over said network, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said first set of software; and
allowing said first set of software to be used under said particular contract.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a second inquiry regarding licensing of a second set of software under said particular contract;

determining a second licensing amount attributable to licensing said second set of software;

updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said second licensing amount; and

allowing said second set of software to be used under said particular contract.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said first set of software and said second set of software are different sets of software.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said second set of software is an upgraded version of said first set of software.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a second inquiry regarding obtaining a service under said particular contract;
determining a service amount attributable to obtaining said service;
updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said service amount; and
allowing said service to be rendered under said particular contract.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said service comprises technical support.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a second inquiry regarding purchasing a product under said particular contract;
determining a purchasing amount attributable to purchasing said product;

updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said purchasing amount; and
allowing said product to be purchased under said particular contract.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a second inquiry regarding licensing a set of property under said particular
contract;
determining a second licensing amount attributable to licensing said property;
updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said second licensing
amount; and
allowing said property to be used under said particular contract.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein said property comprises intellectual property.
10. The method of claim 8, wherein said property comprises proprietary information.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein updating said quota parameter comprises:
reducing said quota parameter by said first licensing amount.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein said first inquiry specifies one or more additional inquiry
parameters, and wherein said first licensing amount is determined based, at least partially,
upon at least one of said one or more additional inquiry parameters.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein at least one of said one or more additional inquiry parameters is specifiable by a sender of said first inquiry.
14. The method of claim 12, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating a desired amount of time for which said first set of software is to be licensed.
15. The method of claim 12, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating how many users may concurrently use said first set of software.
16. The method of claim 12, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating how many copies of said first set of software are desired.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein allowing said first set of software to be used comprises: granting a license to use said first set of software for a period of time.
18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
receiving a request to terminate said license before said period of time has elapsed;
determining a refund amount; and
updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said refund amount.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
disallowing further use of said first set of software under said particular contract.
20. The method of claim 18, wherein updating said quota parameter comprises:
increasing said quota parameter by said refund amount.
21. The method of claim 18, wherein said refund amount is determined based, at least partially, upon an unused portion of said license.
22. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a request to deploy said first set of software; and
deploying said first set of software to a host, wherein said host may be any host specified
by a sender of said request.
23. A computer-implemented method for managing a contract, comprising:
receiving, over a network, from a client computer that runs a browser program, at a
management system that is coupled to said client computer via said network and
is embodied in a machine, a first inquiry regarding licensing of a first set of
software under a particular contract;
in response to receiving said first inquiry at said management system, accessing, at said
management system, information pertaining to said particular contract, said
information comprising a quota parameter, which specifies a quota of resources

that can be consumed under said particular contract, and one or more contract terms associated with said particular contract;

determining, at said management system, a first licensing amount attributable to licensing said first set of software, said first licensing amount determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms;

updating said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said first licensing amount;

sending license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host that (a) is coupled to said management system via said network, (b) communicates with said first set of software over said network, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said first set of software; and

allowing said first set of software to be used under said particular contract.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

receiving a second inquiry regarding licensing of a second set of software under said particular contract;

accessing said information pertaining to said particular contract;

determining a second licensing amount attributable to licensing said second set of software, said second licensing amount determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms;

updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said second licensing amount; and

allowing said second set of software to be used under said particular contract.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said first set of software and said second set of software are different sets of software.
26. The method of claim 24, wherein said second set of software is an upgraded version of said first set of software.
27. The method of claim 24, wherein the one or more contract terms applied to determine said first licensing amount are different from the one or more contract terms applied to determine said second licensing amount.
28. The method of claim 24, wherein the one or more contract terms applied to determine said first licensing amount are the same as the one or more contract terms applied to determine said second licensing amount.
29. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
receiving a second inquiry regarding obtaining a service under said particular contract;
determining a service amount attributable to obtaining said service;
updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said service amount; and
allowing said service to be rendered under said particular contract.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein said service comprises technical support.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein said service amount is determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms.
32. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
receiving a second inquiry regarding purchasing a product under said particular contract;
determining a purchasing amount attributable to purchasing said product;
updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said purchasing amount; and
allowing said product to be purchased under said particular contract.
33. The method of claim 32, wherein said purchasing amount is determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms.
34. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
receiving a second inquiry regarding licensing a set of property under said particular contract;
determining a second licensing amount attributable to licensing said property;
updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said second licensing amount; and
allowing said property to be used under said particular contract.
35. The method of claim 34, wherein said property comprises intellectual property.
36. The method of claim 34, wherein said property comprises proprietary information.

37. The method of claim 34, wherein said second licensing amount is determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms.
38. The method of claim 23, wherein said one or more contract terms comprises an uplift.
39. The method of claim 23, wherein said one or more contract terms comprises a discount.
40. The method of claim 23, wherein said one or more contract terms comprises a multiplier.
41. The method of claim 23, wherein updating said quota parameter comprises:
reducing said quota parameter by said first licensing amount.
42. The method of claim 23, wherein said first inquiry specifies one or more additional inquiry parameters, and wherein said first licensing amount is determined based, at least partially, upon at least one of said one or more additional inquiry parameters.
43. The method of claim 42, wherein at least one of said one or more additional inquiry parameters is specifiable by a sender of said first inquiry.
44. The method of claim 42, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating a desired amount of time for which said first set of software is to be licensed.

45. The method of claim 42, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating how many users may concurrently use said first set of software.
46. The method of claim 42, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating how many copies of said first set of software are desired.
47. The method of claim 23, wherein said first inquiry specifies a set of inquiry parameters, which include a reference to said first set of software and one or more additional inquiry parameters, and wherein determining said first licensing amount comprises:
determining, based at least partially upon one or more of said inquiry parameters, which
of said one or more contract terms to apply to said first inquiry.
48. The method of claim 47, wherein said set of inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating a desired amount of time for which said first set of software is to be licensed.
49. The method of claim 23, wherein allowing said first set of software to be used comprises:
granting a license to use said first set of software for a period of time.
50. The method of claim 49, further comprising:
receiving a request to terminate said license before said period of time has elapsed;

determining a refund amount; and

updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said refund amount.

51. The method of claim 49, further comprising:
disallowing further use of said first set of software under said particular contract.
52. The method of claim 50, wherein updating said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said refund amount comprises:
increasing said quota parameter by said refund amount.
53. The method of claim 50, wherein said refund amount is determined based, at least partially, upon an unused portion of said license.
54. The method of claim 50, wherein said refund amount is determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms.
55. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
receiving a request to deploy said first set of software; and
deploying said first set of software to a host, wherein said host may be any host specified
by a sender of said request.

56. A computer-implemented method for managing a contract, comprising:
- receiving, over a network, from a client computer that runs a browser program, at a management system is embodied in a machine that is coupled to said client computer via said network, an inquiry regarding licensing of a set of software under a particular contract;
- in response to receiving said first inquiry at said management system, accessing, at said management system, a first set of information pertaining to said particular contract, said first set of information comprising a quota parameter, which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said particular contract, and one or more contract terms associated with said particular contract;
- accessing, at said management system, one or more other sets of information pertaining to one or more other contracts related to said particular contract, each of said other sets of information comprising one or more contract terms associated with one of said other contracts;
- processing said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information at said management system to derive one or more applicable contract terms that apply to said inquiry;
- determining, at said management system, a licensing amount attributable to licensing said set of software, said licensing amount determined, at least partially, by applying said one or more applicable contract terms;
- updating said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said licensing amount;

1
sending license parameters from said management system over said network to a
licensing host that (a) is embodied in a machine that is connected, via said
network, to a machine in which said management system is embodied, (b)
communicates with said first set of software over said network, and (c) enforces
said license parameters relative to said first set of software; and
allowing said first set of software to be used under said particular contract.

57. The method of claim 56, wherein said one or more applicable contract terms may be derived from said first set of information or from any of said one or more other sets of information.
58. The method of claim 56, wherein the contract terms associated with each contract may differ, and wherein processing said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information comprises:
reconciling said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information to
extract therefrom said one or more applicable contract terms.
59. The method of claim 58, wherein reconciling comprises:
processing said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information in a
particular order;
searching, as each set of information is processed, for a contract term that applies to said
inquiry; and

upon finding a first contract term that applies to said inquiry, including said first contract term as one of said one or more applicable contract terms.

60. The method of claim 59, wherein said first contract term may be found in said first set of information, or in any of said one or more other sets of information.

61. The method of claim 56, wherein processing said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information comprises:
determining whether said first set of information comprises a contract term that applies to said inquiry; and
in response to a determination that said first set of information does not comprise a contract term that applies to said inquiry, deriving said one or more applicable contract terms from said one or more other sets of information.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein deriving said one or more applicable contract terms further comprises:
in response to a determination that said first set of information does comprise a contract term that applies to said inquiry, including the contract term that applies to said inquiry as one of said one or more applicable contract terms.

63. The method of claim 56, wherein processing said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information comprises:

processing said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information in a particular order;
 searching, as each set of information is processed, for a contract term that applies to said inquiry; and
 upon finding a contract term that applies to said inquiry, including the contract term that applies to said inquiry as one of said one or more applicable contract terms.

64. The method of claim 63, wherein the contract term that applies to said inquiry may be found in said first set of information, or in any of said one or more other sets of information.
65. A computer-implemented method for managing a contract, comprising:
 receiving, over a network, from a client computer that runs a browser program, at a management system is embodied in a machine that is coupled to said client computer via said network, a request to terminate a license on a set of software;
 in response to receiving said request at said management system, accessing information pertaining to said license, said information comprising a reference to a contract under which said license was granted, said contract having a quota parameter associated therewith which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said contract;
 determining a refund amount at said management system;
 updating said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said refund amount;

sending license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host that (a) is embodied in a machine that is connected, via said network, to a machine in which said management system is embodied, (b) communicates with said set of software over said network, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said set of software; and disallowing further use of said set of software under said contract.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein updating said quota parameter comprises: increasing said quota parameter by said refund amount.
67. The method of claim 65, wherein said contract has one or more contract terms associated therewith, and wherein said refund amount is determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms.
68. The method of claim 66, wherein said information pertaining to said license further comprises a licensing amount attributable to licensing said set of software, and wherein said refund amount is determined based, at least partially, upon said licensing amount.
69. The method of claim 68, wherein said refund amount is a portion of said licensing amount, and wherein said portion is proportional to an unused portion of said license.
70. The method of claim 65, wherein disallowing further use of said set of software comprises:

preventing further execution of said set of software.

71. The method of claim 70, wherein preventing comprises:

invalidating an authorization parameter which is required for proper execution of said set of software.

72. A computer readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to manage a contract, said computer readable medium comprising:

instructions for causing one or more processors to receive, over a network, from a client computer that runs a browser program, a first inquiry regarding licensing of a first set of software under a particular contract;

instructions for causing one or more processors to access, in response to receipt of said first inquiry and at a management system that is coupled to said client computer via said network, information pertaining to said particular contract, said information comprising a quota parameter, which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said particular contract;

instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, at said management system, a first licensing amount attributable to licensing said first set of software;

instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said first licensing amount;

instructions for causing one or more processors to send license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host that (a) is coupled to

said management system via said network, (b) communicates with said first set of software over said network, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said first set of software; and
instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said first set of software to be used under said particular contract.

73. The computer readable medium of claim 72, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a second inquiry regarding licensing of a second set of software under said particular contract;
instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a second licensing amount attributable to licensing said second set of software;
instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said second licensing amount; and
instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said second set of software to be used under said particular contract.

74. The computer readable medium of claim 73, wherein said first set of software and said second set of software are different sets of software.

75. The computer readable medium of claim 73, wherein said second set of software is an upgraded version of said first set of software.

76. The computer readable medium of claim 72, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a second inquiry regarding
obtaining a service under said particular contract;
instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a service amount
attributable to obtaining said service;
instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at
least partially, upon said service amount; and
instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said service to be rendered under
said particular contract.
77. The computer readable medium of claim 76, wherein said service comprises technical
support.
78. The computer readable medium of claim 72, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a second inquiry regarding
purchasing a product under said particular contract;
instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a purchasing amount
attributable to purchasing said product;
instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at
least partially, upon said purchasing amount; and
instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said product to be purchased
under said particular contract.

79. The computer readable medium of claim 72, further comprising:

instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a second inquiry regarding

licensing a set of property under said particular contract;

instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a second licensing amount

attributable to licensing said property;

instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at

least partially, upon said second licensing amount; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said property to be used under

said particular contract.
80. The computer readable medium of claim 79, wherein said property comprises intellectual property.
81. The computer readable medium of claim 79, wherein said property comprises proprietary information.
82. The computer readable medium of claim 72, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to reduce said quota parameter by said

first licensing amount.
83. The computer readable medium of claim 72, wherein said first inquiry specifies one or more additional inquiry parameters, and wherein said first licensing amount is determined

based, at least partially, upon at least one of said one or more additional inquiry parameters.

84. The computer readable medium of claim 83, wherein at least one of said one or more additional inquiry parameters is specifiable by a sender of said first inquiry.
85. The computer readable medium of claim 83, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating a desired amount of time for which said first set of software is to be licensed.
86. The computer readable medium of claim 83, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating how many users may concurrently use said first set of software.
87. The computer readable medium of claim 83, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating how many copies of said first set of software are desired.
88. The computer readable medium of claim 72, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said first set of software to be used comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to grant a license to use said first set of software for a period of time.

89. The computer readable medium of claim 88, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a request to terminate said
license before said period of time has elapsed;
instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a refund amount; and
instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at
least partially, upon said refund amount.
90. The computer readable medium of claim 89, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to disallow further use of said first set of
software under said particular contract.
91. The computer readable medium of claim 89, wherein said instructions for causing one or
more processors to update said quota parameter comprises:
instructions for causing one or more processors to increase said quota parameter by said
refund amount.
92. The computer readable medium of claim 89, wherein said refund amount is determined
based, at least partially, upon an unused portion of said license.
93. The computer readable medium of claim 72, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a request to deploy said first
set of software; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to deploy said first set of software to a host, wherein said host may be any host specified by a sender of said request.

94. A computer readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to manage a contract, said computer readable medium comprising:

instructions for causing one or more processors to receive, over a network, from a client computer that runs a browser program, at a management system that is coupled to said client computer via said network, a first inquiry regarding licensing of a first set of software under a particular contract;

instructions for causing one or more processors to access, at said management system and in response to receipt of said first inquiry at said management system, information pertaining to said particular contract, said information comprising a quota parameter, which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said particular contract, and one or more contract terms associated with said particular contract;

instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, at said management system, a first licensing amount attributable to licensing said first set of software, said first licensing amount determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms;

instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said first licensing amount;

instructions for causing one or more processors to send license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host that (a) is coupled to said management system via said network, (b) communicates with said first set of software over said network, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said first set of software; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said first set of software to be used under said particular contract.

95. The computer readable medium of claim 94, further comprising:

instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a second inquiry regarding licensing of a second set of software under said particular contract;

instructions for causing one or more processors to access said information pertaining to said particular contract;

instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a second licensing amount attributable to licensing said second set of software, said second licensing amount determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms;

instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said second licensing amount; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said second set of software to be used under said particular contract.

96. The computer readable medium of claim 95, wherein said first set of software and said second set of software are different sets of software.

97. The computer readable medium of claim 95, wherein said second set of software is an upgraded version of said first set of software.
98. The computer readable medium of claim 95, wherein the one or more contract terms applied to determine said first licensing amount are different from the one or more contract terms applied to determine said second licensing amount.
99. The computer readable medium of claim 95, wherein the one or more contract terms applied to determine said first licensing amount are the same as the one or more contract terms applied to determine said second licensing amount.
100. The computer readable medium of claim 94, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a second inquiry regarding
obtaining a service under said particular contract;
instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a service amount
attributable to obtaining said service;
instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at
least partially, upon said service amount; and
instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said service to be rendered under
said particular contract.

101. The computer readable medium of claim 100, wherein said service comprises technical support.
102. The computer readable medium of claim 100, wherein said service amount is determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms.
103. The computer readable medium of claim 94, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a second inquiry regarding
purchasing a product under said particular contract;
instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a purchasing amount
attributable to purchasing said product;
instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at
least partially, upon said purchasing amount; and
instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said product to be purchased
under said particular contract.
104. The computer readable medium of claim 103, wherein said purchasing amount is
determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms.
105. The computer readable medium of claim 94, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a second inquiry regarding
licensing a set of property under said particular contract;

instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a second licensing amount attributable to licensing said property;
 instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said second licensing amount; and
 instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said property to be used under said particular contract.

106. The computer readable medium of claim 105, wherein said property comprises intellectual property.
107. The computer readable medium of claim 105, wherein said property comprises proprietary information.
108. The computer readable medium of claim 105, wherein said second licensing amount is determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms.
109. The computer readable medium of claim 94, wherein said one or more contract terms comprises an uplift.
110. The computer readable medium of claim 94, wherein said one or more contract terms comprises a discount.

111. The computer readable medium of claim 94, wherein said one or more contract terms comprises a multiplier.
112. The computer readable medium of claim 94, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to reduce said quota parameter by said

first licensing amount.
113. The computer readable medium of claim 94, wherein said first inquiry specifies one or more additional inquiry parameters, and wherein said first licensing amount is determined based, at least partially, upon at least one of said one or more additional inquiry parameters.
114. The computer readable medium of claim 113, wherein at least one of said one or more additional inquiry parameters is specifiable by a sender of said first inquiry.
115. The computer readable medium of claim 113, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating a desired amount of time for which said first set of software is to be licensed.
116. The computer readable medium of claim 113, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating how many users may concurrently use said first set of software.

117. The computer readable medium of claim 113, wherein said one or more additional inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating how many copies of said first set of software are desired.
118. The computer readable medium of claim 94, wherein said first inquiry specifies a set of inquiry parameters, which include a reference to said first set of software and one or more additional inquiry parameters, and wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to determine said first licensing amount comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, based at least partially upon one or more of said inquiry parameters, which of said one or more contract terms to apply to said first inquiry.
119. The computer readable medium of claim 118, wherein said set of inquiry parameters comprises a parameter indicating a desired amount of time for which said first set of software is to be licensed.
120. The computer readable medium of claim 94, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said first set of software to be used comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to grant a license to use said first set of software for a period of time.

121. The computer readable medium of claim 120, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a request to terminate said
license before said period of time has elapsed;
instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a refund amount; and
instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at
least partially, upon said refund amount.
122. The computer readable medium of claim 120, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to disallow further use of said first set of
software under said particular contract.
123. The computer readable medium of claim 121, wherein said instructions for causing one
or more processors to update said quota parameter based, at least partially, upon said
refund amount comprises:
instructions for causing one or more processors to increase said quota parameter by said
refund amount.
124. The computer readable medium of claim 121, wherein said refund amount is determined
based, at least partially, upon an unused portion of said license.
125. The computer readable medium of claim 121, wherein said refund amount is determined,
at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms.

126. The computer readable medium of claim 94, further comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a request to deploy said first set of software; and
instructions for causing one or more processors to deploy said first set of software to a host, wherein said host may be any host specified by a sender of said request.
127. A computer readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to manage a contract, said computer readable medium comprising:
instructions for causing one or more processors to receive, over a network, from a client computer that runs a browser program, at a management system that is coupled to said client computer via said network, an inquiry regarding licensing of a set of software under a particular contract;
instructions for causing one or more processors to access, at said management system and in response to receipt of said first inquiry at said management system, a first set of information pertaining to said particular contract, said first set of information comprising a quota parameter, which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said particular contract, and one or more contract terms associated with said particular contract;
instructions for causing one or more processors to access, at said management system, one or more other sets of information pertaining to one or more other contracts related to said particular contract, each of said other sets of information comprising one or more contract terms associated with one of said other contracts;

instructions for causing one or more processors to process said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information at said management system to derive one or more applicable contract terms that apply to said inquiry;

instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, at said management system, a licensing amount attributable to licensing said set of software, said licensing amount determined, at least partially, by applying said one or more applicable contract terms;

instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said licensing amount;

instructions for causing one or more processors to send license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host that (a) is embodied in a machine that is connected, via said network, to a machine in which said management system is embodied, (b) communicates with said first set of software over said network, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said first set of software; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to allow said first set of software to be used under said particular contract.

128. The computer readable medium of claim 127, wherein said one or more applicable contract terms may be derived from said first set of information or from any of said one or more other sets of information.

129. The computer readable medium of claim 127, wherein the contract terms associated with each contract may differ, and wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to process said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to reconcile said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information to extract therefrom said one or more applicable contract terms.
130. The computer readable medium of claim 129, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to reconcile comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to process said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information in a particular order;

instructions for causing one or more processors to search, as each set of information is processed, for a contract term that applies to said inquiry; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to, upon finding a first contract term that applies to said inquiry, include said first contract term as one of said one or more applicable contract terms.
131. The computer readable medium of claim 130, wherein said first contract term may be found in said first set of information, or in any of said one or more other sets of information.

132. The computer readable medium of claim 127, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to process said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to determine whether said first set of

information comprises a contract term that applies to said inquiry; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to, in response to a determination that

said first set of information does not comprise a contract term that applies to said

inquiry, derive said one or more applicable contract terms from said one or more

other sets of information.

133. The computer readable medium of claim 132, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to derive said one or more applicable contract terms further comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to, in response to a determination that

said first set of information does comprise a contract term that applies to said

inquiry, include the contract term that applies to said inquiry as one of said one or

more applicable contract terms.

134. The computer readable medium of claim 127, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to process said first set of information and said one or more other sets of information comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to process said first set of information

and said one or more other sets of information in a particular order;

instructions for causing one or more processors to search, as each set of information is processed, for a contract term that applies to said inquiry; and
instructions for causing one or more processors to, upon finding a contract term that applies to said inquiry, include the contract term that applies to said inquiry as one of said one or more applicable contract terms.

135. The computer readable medium of claim 134, wherein the contract term that applies to said inquiry may be found in said first set of information, or in any of said one or more other sets of information.

136. A computer readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to manage a contract, said computer readable medium comprising:

instructions for causing one or more processors to receive, over a network, from a client computer that runs a browser program, at a management system that is embodied in a machine that is coupled to said client computer via said network, a request to terminate a license on a set of software;

instructions for causing one or more processors to access, in response to receipt of said request at said management system, information pertaining to said license, said information comprising a reference to a contract under which said license was granted, said contract having a quota parameter associated therewith which specifies a quota of resources that can be consumed under said contract;

instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a refund amount at said management system;

instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter at said management system based, at least partially, upon said refund amount;

instructions for causing one or more processors to send license parameters from said management system over said network to a licensing host that (a) is embodied in a machine that is connected, via said network, to a machine in which said management system is embodied, (b) communicates with said set of software over said network, and (c) enforces said license parameters relative to said set of software; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to disallow further use of said set of software under said contract.

137. The computer readable medium of claim 136, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to update said quota parameter comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to increase said quota parameter by said refund amount.

138. The computer readable medium of claim 136, wherein said contract has one or more contract terms associated therewith, and wherein said refund amount is determined, at least partially, by applying one or more of said contract terms.

139. The computer readable medium of claim 137, wherein said information pertaining to said license further comprises a licensing amount attributable to licensing said set of software, and wherein said refund amount is determined based, at least partially, upon said licensing amount.
140. The computer readable medium of claim 139, wherein said refund amount is a portion of said licensing amount, and wherein said portion is proportional to an unused portion of said license.
141. The computer readable medium of claim 136, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to disallow further use of said set of software comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to prevent further execution of said set of software.
142. The computer readable medium of claim 141, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to prevent comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to invalidate an authorization parameter which is required for proper execution of said set of software.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.